

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET

SUBJECT: PMAC DECLARATIONS ON ERITREA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1840

1. ETHIOPIAN HERALD OF SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, IN DECLARATION HEADLINED ON FRONT PAGE REITERATED ERITREA IS INSEPERABLE PART OF ETHIOPIA. SUBSTANCE OF ARTICLE BASICALLY SIMILAR TO THAT REPORTED REFTEL INCLUDING ATTACKS ON OSMAN SALEH SABBE AND HIS FOREIGN SUPPORTERS WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO DIVIDE ETHIOPIA. THE STATEMENT CARRIED ACCOUNT OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO SETTLE CONFLICT PEACEFULLY AND CONDEMNS FOREIGN NEWS MEDIA FOR MISREPORTING OF PROBLEM AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS FOR SUPPORTING "BANDITS." STATEMENT ALSO ATTACKS FOR FIRST TIME BY NAME, IDRIS MOHAMED AS ONE OF LEADERS OF ELF.

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2. SAME ISSUE OF HERALD FRONT PAGES MOFA FEBRUARY 14 RELEASE

"REJECTING" SYRIAN BA'ATH STATEMENT ON ERITREAN LIBERATION AND INDEPENDENCE. RELEASE EQUATES BA'ATH WITH GOS VIEWS AND CHARACTERIZES THEM AS REFLECTIVE OF SYRIA'S CONTINUING INTERFERENCE IN ETHIOPIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS WHICH BREACH OF UN CHARTER AND INTERNATIONAL LAW. MOFA STATEMENT ALSO DEFINES AS GROUNDLESS AND SELF-SERVING SYRIA'S ALLEGATIONS OF ATROCITIES COMMITTED IN ERITREA AND REITERATES THAT ERITREA HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF ETHIOPIA. "NO AMOUNT OF OUTSIDE MACHINATION FOR PURPOSES THAT HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH INTERESTS OF THE ENTIRE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE AS WELL AS OF AFRICA CAN SUCCEED TO UNDO WHAT HAS BEEN HISTORICAL REALITY."

3. ETHIOPIAN HERALD OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 CARRIED PMAC STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 15 DECLARING STATE OF EMERGENCY EXISTS THROUGHOUT ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF ERITREA. STATEMENT NOTED THAT STATE OF EMERGENCY PREVIOUSLY IN EFFECT IN PARTS OF ERITREA AND SAID DECISION TO DECLARE STATE OF EMERGENCY THROUGHOUT PROVINCE WAS TAKEN TO ASSURE PUBLIC SAFETY AND TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER "IN VIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGION."
COMMENT: DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY DOES NOT QUITE SQUARE WITH PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT INSURGENCY IS WORK OF "HANDFUL OF BANDITS" AND MAY REFLECT PMAC'S DECISION TO GRADUALLY INFORM PUBLIC OF SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM.
WYMAN

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